Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission
Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes
Canada

News Release

December 15, 1995

CABLE SERVICE WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE IN OVER FIFTY NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

OTTAWA-HULL - The CRTC today announced it was approving applications submitted by Northwestel Cable Inc. and by members of Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. (ACL) for licences to carry on new cable distribution undertakings which will serve 14 communities in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The Commission also approved Northwestel Cable's applications for authority to take effective control of three existing cable companies -- MacKenzie Media Ltd. (Yellowknife, Northwest Territories), Pangnirtung Cable T.V. Ltd. (Pangnirtung, Northwest Territories) and Performance Communications Corp. (Watson Lake, Yukon Territory). In addition, it has approved an ACL member's (Toonoonik-Sahoonik Co-operative Ltd.) proposal to acquire the assets of the cable company presently serving Pond Inlet and its application for a licence to continue this company's operations (Decisions CRTC 95-897 and 95-898).

Northwestel Cable will be expected to contribute a monthly amount of $0.55 per subscriber to a fund administered by Television Northern Canada; the ACL members will be encouraged to make this contribution as well. This fund will be used to promote the development of aboriginal programming.

The approval of these applications is part of Northwestel Cable's long-term plan to provide, by 1999, cable service to 29 communities in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. ACL intends to provide cable service to a total of 23 communities in the Northwest Territories within four years.

Today's decisions follow a public hearing held in Yellowknife last September.

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Copies of today's decisions are available through our Internet home page (http://www.crtc.gc.ca) or by contacting the public examination room of any CRTC office:

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